

Your Energy Connection



January 2015

Tips for Cutting Energy Costs this Winter

Don't let those winter bills give you chills! Rocky Mount Public Utilities (RMPU) recommends the following energy-saving tips to help keep costs down this winter:

Light Switch

Always turn off the lights when leaving a room.

Fireplace Damper

Close the flue damper when the fireplace is not in use. A chimney is designed to remove by-products from a fire by creating a draft. The draft also pulls the warmed air from your home. Even without a fire in the fireplace, there will still be a draft in the chimney as long as there's a temperature difference between indoors and out.

Air Register

Make sure that the connections at vents and registers are well-sealed where they meet the floors, walls, and ceiling. These are common locations to find leaks and disconnected ductwork. Also make sure that all vents are clear of any furniture or rugs to improve air flow and comfort.

Power Strip

Use a power strip as a central "turn off" point for electronics, video games, and computers when not in use.

Lighting

Switch to energy efficient lighting, such as CFLs and LEDs.

Ceiling Fan

In the winter, your ceiling fan can help improve your comfort. Most fans have a switch that allows you to reverse the motor and operate the ceiling fan in the opposite direction. This produces a gentle updraft, which forces warm air near the ceiling down into the living space.

Drapes and Windows

During cold weather, take advantage of the sun's warmth by keeping drapes open during daylight hours. Also, caulk and weather-strip around windows and doors that leak air.

Thermostat

Set the thermostat at the lowest comfortable setting. RMPU recommends 68 degrees during winter months.



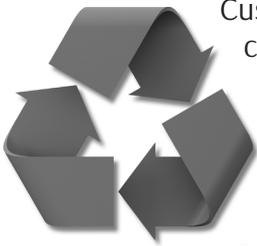
Take a room-by-room tour of "ENERGY STAR @ Home" and learn ways you can save energy throughout the home. For more energy-saving tips or to use the online tool, visit energystar.gov or look for the Energy Savings page at utilities.rockymountnc.gov.

Rollout Carts Distributed to Customers for Recycling Collection

Environmental Services has completed the final stage of converting all recycling customers at single family residences from red bins to rollout carts. **Beginning in January 2015, all recycling customers will be on a twice per month collection schedule.** Service for the new rollout carts will begin the week of Jan. 5, 2015.

Residential customers converted to twice per month collection have been assigned to one of two routes (green route or red route). A map identifying each route by day of week can be accessed at <http://rockymountnc.gov/publicworks>.

Customers on the **GREEN** route will receive service on the first and third weeks of the month. Customers on the **RED** route will receive service on the second and fourth weeks of the month. The first week of the month is the first week that includes a Tuesday. Each new rollout cart will also be marked with a green or red dot for easy route identification.



Customers are encouraged to keep the pamphlets that were distributed either with the new rollout carts or by mail. The pamphlets include the customer's route color and the 2015 collection schedule.

Customers who do not wish to keep the red bins or participate in recycling collection may call (252) 467-4800. Customers who are not physically able to take the rollout cart to the curb for collection may call (252) 467-4800 to arrange assistance.

For more information, call (252) 467-4950 or visit <http://rockymountnc.gov/publicworks>.

Save money on your electric bill with Load Management!

Earn up to \$129 per year in credits on your utility bill by having load management switches installed on one or more appliances:

- Electric Water Heater: \$2.00 credit per month
- Electric Heat Strips: \$15.00 credit per month during three months of winter
- Central Air Conditioner: \$20.00 credit per month during three months of summer

There is no fee for the switches or installation.

Enroll today by calling (252) 467-4803 or visiting www.rockymountnc.gov/utilities/loadmanagement.html.

Winter Assistance for Rocky Mount (W.A.R.M.) Program

The W.A.R.M. Program assists low income elderly, disabled or recently laid off customers with paying past due heating expenses. W.A.R.M. is supported solely on donations from the community. Donations are tax deductible and 100% of all contributions are used to help those in need.

There are three ways to donate:

- Make a lump sum donation
- Complete and return the enrollment form in your monthly utility bill
- Round up your monthly bill to the nearest \$1

For more information about W.A.R.M., call (252) 972-1250 or visit www.rockymountnc.gov/warm.html.

Weatherization Rebates Available!



Through the Energy Share program, cash rebates of up to \$500 are available for work related to attic weatherization and/or a replacement HVAC system. Any RMPU electric and/or natural gas customers may apply, including homeowners and renters. There are no income regulations with this program, but funds are limited. For information or to apply, call (252) 972-1102.

Annual Tree Giveaway

On March 2-4, 2015, the City of Rocky Mount Tree Advisory Board will be giving away Dogwood seedlings in the City Hall Atrium. The limit is two trees per person while supplies last.

Low-growing trees that are suitable for planting near power lines are given away annually to help keep Rocky Mount beautiful and to promote proper planting. For information on proper tree planting and maintenance, visit utilities.rockymountnc.gov or contact Allen Richardson at (252) 467-4856.

